THE

Sighs and Groans,

OF A

SINKING KINGDOM,

IN AN

Humble Addreſs

TO THE

PARLIAMENT

OF

SCOTLAND.

Printed in the Year 1700.

Advertiſement to the Reader.

THE following Humble ADDRESS was ready for the Preſs ſome Moneths ago; but the great FERMENT the whole Kingdom has been in, did plead for a Delay, and put a juſt Reſtraint upon it, from appearing in Publick, leaſt it ſhould ſeem to give *Offence* to any PARTY, eſpecially the GREAT ONES, who (contrair to the groundleſs Expectation and Clamours of ſome Unreaſonable Men) do now appear as ZEALOUS for their Country, and the Publick Good of the Nation, as almoſt we could wiſh. However this bitter Water of JEALOUSY being now pretty well Digeſted, and the Floods of Diviſion, which has overflowed all its due Banks and Boundaries, happily Abated. The Addreſſers (if we may compare them to *Noah*, Toſſed upon the Waters of OVERFLOWING JUDGMENTS) doth now venture to ſend forth this *harmleſs Dove*, THE SIGHS AND GROANS OF A SINKING KINGDOM, longing for its happy Return into the Ark with an Olive Branch, of an Anſwer of Peace, from the Lord of Hoſts, of GOD's PRESENCE to this greatly deſerted Church, of Bleſſings and Proſperity to this Deſtreſſed and Impoveriſhed Nation.

The Occaſion of this Paper, was the Surprizing News we had of the ſhameful and diſgraceful Deſerting of our *Scots* Colony in *Darien*, by the Wickedneſs and Treachery of thoſe who were ſent on that Great Expedition, and God Himſelf leaving us to run our ſelves into ſuch precipitant Courſes: particularly, in not maintaining that due Correſpondence and good Underſtanding betwixt us and our PRINCE as became us in every ſtep of that Important Affair, which His MAJESTY could not in Honour approve of, but was neceſſitate to Diſcountenance, though otherwayes our NURSING FATHER. We ſay this was that which gave the firſt Riſe and Vent to the following Diſcourſe; And moreover, we hearing of a Set of Men in this Kingdom, who were Whiſpering no leſs than the Subverſion of the Government both of Church and State: And therefore, Conſidering the dreadful Conſternation we all were in by that terrible Stroak, and the Fatal-like Conſequences thereof, we hope there are none, who has a due Regard to, or Sympathy with the Bleeding State of their Country, will think it ſtrange, if they meet with Expreſſions ſavouring of ZEAL ſomeway proportionat to our then ſad Circumſtances, when as with *Job* 6. 4. *The Arrows of the Almighty were within us, and the Terrours of God were ſetting themſelves in Array againſt us*: why then *ver.* 25. *Do not Reprove WORDS, and the Speaches of SCOTS-MEN* whom the Carriage and Practice of this Age, goes near to make *Deſperat*. Sure its the Duty of every Chriſtian in ſuch a Caſe, to *Pitty* and *Help*, rather then Senſure and Miſinterpret: And this in Reaſon we expect from the Ingenuous READER who pretends to be of a Publick Spirit.

TO

TO THE

KING,

GREAT SIR.

YOUR MAJESTY knows, that Your Ancient Kindom of *SCOTLAND* did with Renowned *Calvine*, at first REFORM from POPERY streight to PRESBYTRY, and Came quite out from the Tents of these Wicked Men, from their Alters, from their High Places, from their Superstitious Worship, as well as from their Grosser Idolatries. We did not linger in *SODOM*, nor offer to look back with some other Nations, Centering in PRELACY; for which God has justly turned them into a lasting Pillar of DEAD FORMS, Fruitless and Useless CEREMONIES. We did not *Ephraim* like, *stay long in the place of the breaking forth of Children*, a Case dangerous to both MOTHER and CHILD: We say, we did not stick in the Birth betwixt the Two, an Evident Demonstration, that EPISCOPACY was afterwards Obtruded and Forced in upon this Church by Fraud and Violence, against the then Reforming Inclinations of the People.

YOUR MAJESTY likeways knows, That Pursuant to this Blessed REFORMATION, the CHURCH of *Scotland*, Great and Small, Pastor and People, did Enter into a National, and Solemn COVENANT with God, and did frequently *Renew* the same, and all to Secure and Advance the said *Reformation*.

YOUR MAJESTY knows, that *Prelates* and *Corrupt Church-Men* did still Instigate and Importune *Wicked Courts*, who Affect a Lawless and Licentious Liberty, to Introduce PRELACY among us, contrair to CHRISTS Expres Institution, enjoining PARITY among his Servants, contrair to the plain Plan of *Church-Government* laid down by

His

His *Apoſtles*, contrair to our *Solemn Covenants* and *Sworn Engagements*, and contrair to our *Confeſſion of Faith*, made by our Famous Reformer Mr. *KNOX* and his Followers, whom *Prelates* do Mortally Hate, therein agreeing with their good Friend and Old Mother *MARRY Q.* of *Scotland*, who Declared, that ſhe was more Affraid of *Mr. Knox* his PRAYERS, than for an Army of 20000. Men.

YOUR MAJESTY knows, how PRELACY broke in upon us, like a Deluge, in *Anno.* 1661. And what a Fearful Havok they then made in our Church, by Throwing out *Brevi Manu* 3 or 400 *Miniſters*, our Faithful Paſtors at one Blow, by Renownceing their Sworn Alledgance to the KING OF HFAVEN, Burſting of all Bonds and Boundaries, Breaking the *Oath of God &c.* Upon the back of which, there immediatly broke out a Cruel and Bloody *Perſecution*, and Continued Waxing ſtill Hotter and more Intolerable for near 30 Years without Intermiſſion; So that Men of all Ranks and Qualities, were forced into ſuch Meaſures for their own Innocent *Seif-Defence*, that otherwayes were quite Contrair to their Peaceable Diſpoſition: And ſuch was the PRELATES their unacountable Rage and Fury againſt that COVENANT, that like the troubled Sea (ſtill caſting Mire and Dirt upon it) they were Reſtleſs till they got it not only BROKEN, but likeways BURNT by the Hands of the Common Hangman, and did Proſecute the Subjects to Death for their *Conſciencious Adhering* thereunto. Theſe are Matters of Fact, ſo clear for the ſpace of half an Age, that we ſuppoſe none will offer to Contradict them; Nay we are Confident the hundred part of that *Tragedy*, during the late two Reigns, did never reach Your MAJESTIES Ear, which Thouſands of Your *Faithful Subjects* yet Alive, have Seen and Felt.

Now ſince Your MAJESTY, and this WORTHY PARLIAMENT has Voted PRELATES and PRELACY out of Doors, and out of this Kingdom, Declaring them, and the whole of that Antichriſtian Hyrarchy, to have been *Scotlands Inſuportable Grievance*, and made Null and Void all former Acts and Laws paſt in their Favours: And we firmly Depending upon Your Majeſties Reiterated Gracious Promiſes and Aſſurances in Favours of PRESBYTERIANS and PRESBYTE-

BYTERIAN GOVERNMENT in *SCOTLAND*, We will not asse all this Imagine, that ever Your MAJESTY will suffer us again t Drink in our own *Poyson*, or to Lick up our own *Vomite*. But on th Contrair, we firmly Believe and Hope, that You will Allow them al due Assistance and Encouragement in their *Giving unto GOD that whic is GODS*; Particularly in Asserting the Intrinsick Power of the Church and of Church Judicatories. This we Humbly Call, THEIR SPI-RIRTUAL CLAIM OF RIGHT, which they Have and Derive alone from their Great LORD and Master JESUS CHRIST: Then Jea-lous Spirits shall no longer be Frighted with the Bug-bear Apprehensi-ons of ERASTIANISME among us, a Principle quite Destructive to our present Constitution: For if this FOUNDATION be destroyed, what can His Righteous Servants do? And since it is not possible, Your MAJESTY can be particularly Acquainted with the Various Humours and Resentments of Your Subjects, we are perswaded, You will still Con-tinue to lay most Weight on the Information and Advice of such, who truely *Fear the Lord, the Faithful in the Land, Davids Companions. Psal.* 101. Those who serve Your MAJESTY either in *Church* or *State* from a Principle of CONSCIENCE more than INTEREST, their being too too many of the *Reverse Quality*: For what ever plausible Pretexts *Ill designing Men* may have for Changes in the *State*, SELF, and their own *Advancement* back'd with *Revenge*, is still at the bottom, as their Secret Drift. And likewayes, whatever STATE-POLICY they may pretend to for Alterations and Innovarations in the CHURCH (yet more dangerous than the former) it has its true and only Rise from their *Laxness in Principles*, their *Looseness in Practice* and *Enmity at Serious Religion*, well knowing, that *Corrupt Church Men*, Alloweth all Men, Especially the *Great Ones* their Supporters, their full Swing and Latitude, to Do and Live as they List. Let all who Love the *Peace of Jerusalem* give Glory to GOD, and Thanks on our knees to Your MA-JESTY, for Delivering us out of the Paw of these Lyons, Enemies to God and Good Men; and we know no Open or Secret Enemies You have in *Scotland*, but those who are likewayes stated Enemies to God, such as ATHEISTS, PAPISTS and EPISCOPAL MALIGNANTS, and

suppose

ſuppoſe them to be a Fourth Part of the Nation, yet the Due and *Impartial Execution* of the Good Laws already made, might ſoon come to *Tame* all the Three: For Your Great CLEMENCY, (an Excellent and Engaging Quality in a PRINCE) remarkably renders theſe Men the more *Bold, Hardned and Obſtinat.*

What we do here Earneſtly Crave in the following Humble ADDRESS to Your PARLIAMENT, in order to the Securing of our HOLY RELIGION, the Effectual Supreſſing of *Vice and Immoralities* amongſt all Ranks of Perſons, and the Univerſal Good of the whole Kingdom. We do fully ſubmit it to Your GREAT SELF and THEM to Determine, Whether it be not both Rational and Reaſonable, Chriſtian and Neceſſar, Eſpecially Conſidering our preſent Bad, and Sad Circumſtances: And wherein we may happen to have failed in manner of *Expreſſion*, we are willing to Acknowledge our Infirmity and do Throw our ſelves into the Arms of Your *Mercy*: But if there be any *Iniquity* found in us, if any *Falſhood* (which God forbid) or the leaſt *Ill Deſign* in this Paper to any Mortal, far leſs to the Publick Concerns of *Church* or *State*. Lo, here we are, and our only Anſwer ſhall be with Poor Innocent *Mephiboſheth*, when miſrepreſented unto *David* by wicked *Ziba* 2. *Sam.* 19. 27. *MY LORD THE KING is as an Angel of God; do therefore unto us what is good in thine Eyes:* However ſuffer us to declair before our MAKER, the *Searcher of Hearts*, That our Great END herein is the *Glory of GOD*, The *Honour and Happineſs of Your MAJESTY*, The Good of *the Church*, And the *true Intereſt of every Chriſtian* Scotſ-man.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY.

Your Majeſties moſt Obedient, moſt Faithful, and well Meaning Subjects,

Supplicants at the Throne of Grace, Crying.

O KING LIVE FOR EVER.

THE

SIGHS and *GROANS*, of a Sinking Kingdom,

In An

Humble Addreſs to His *Grace*

THE

Duke of *QUEENSBERRY*, His Majeſties High Commiſſioner

AND THE

Honourable Members of the *PARLIAMENT*, *Of* SCOTLAND.

WHEREAS we have been theſe years paſt, groaning out our own and the Kingdoms Miſeries unto God, Who to this Day ſeems to be *Inexorable*, by reaſon of ſome bitter CONTROVERSY and crying to Him with the *Church in Pſal*: 79 8. *O Remember not against us our former Iniquities*: *Let thy tender Mercies ſpeedily prevent us, for we are brought very low. And with Daniel* 9 19. *O Lord hear, O Lord forgive; O Lord hearken and do; defer not for thine own Sake O my God*: *For Thy City and Thy People are called by Thy Name*, [in Covenant with Thee] So likeways we are neceſſitate in this preſſing Juncture, to CRY unto you, our NOBLE and WORTHY PATRIOTS, for help; the whole Kingdom in all appearance being now brought to the Gates of Ruine; And not only ſo, but deſervedly made the *Reproach* and *Contempt* of Nations a Hiſſing to all about us, no hand to help us, no Eye to pity us; Heaven, Earth and Hell as it were combin'd together againſt us, though upon different

different Designs: Nay, which is altogether unaccountable and lamentable, We our ſelves are fighting againſt our ſelves, every one ſeeking to *Overtop*, *Overreach* and *Overturn* his Neighbour, for to *Advance*, *Enrich* and *Agrandize* himſelf, and this to the *Ruine* of the whole Nation; few preſſing after the *Pearl of great Price*, but all madly purſuing the baſe *Wadge of Gold*, and that not ſecretly with miſerable *Achan*, but moſt part avowedly and impudently to the wiew of the World. So that by our grievous Revolt from God and his Way, and by ſuch unhappy Streaches, we have made our ſelves *Naked* to our own Shame, and among our Enemies, that it is a Wonder, the *Jealous* and *Righteous Lord*, has not ere now given a Commiſſion to all true hearted Scotſ-*Men*, as in *Exod*: 32 25. *Put every Man his Sword by his Side and go in and out, from Gate to Gate through the Land, and ſlay every Man his Brother: and every Man his Companion, and every Man his Neighbour*, The terrible Aſpect of our preſent Providences, ſeems to be calling for ſomewhat elſe from us, than our bare Wiſhings and Woldings our Prayers and Houlings [though otherways neceſſar duties in themſelves) GOD is calling for *Action* and preſent Action, and ſaying to us. even the beſt of us, as unto *Joſhua* 7 10 11 12. *Get the up*; *Wherefore lyeſt thou thus upon thy Face? Iſrael hath ſinned and they have alſo tranſgerſſed my Covenant, therefort they cannot ſtand, neither will I be with you any more, until you take away the accurſed thing from among you.*

If you ask the people of *Scotland*, at leaſt the better part of them, *All ſerious thinking Men*. What would you have us to do in this important Caſe? They and we do humbly anſwer, that to appeaſe an angry God, avert deſerved Wrath, and quiet the perplexed Minds of all good Men, His Majeſties beſt Subjects, Our earneſt PETITION is.

In the firſt place, as a neceſſar Preface to uſher in our Happineſs, and preparatory thereunto; That you, with the Concurrance of the Church, do appoint a Day of *Humiliation* and *National Faſt*, for SINS Old and New, paſt and preſent; particularly, for the *Crying Sins* of the late Reigns, for our *Breach of Solemn Vows and Engeagements to the Great God*, not yet ſufficiently laid to heart, and publickly mourned for, but by many buried in Oblivion and huſh'd in ſilence, though yet ſtanding, and will ſtand irrepealable in the laſting Records of Heaven, by others openly mock'd at and redicul'd, though it was the Deed of a whole Nation, ratified and approven by former auguſt *Parliaments*, and ſealled by the Blood of Martyers and which was *Scotlands* Glory: So that we may ſay as in *Jerem*: 2. 10 11 12. *Paſs over the Iſles of Shittim and ſee, and ſend unto Kedar [the wild Pagans about us) and conſider diligently and ſee, if there be ſuch a thing. Hath a Nation changed their Gods, which are yet no Gods. But my people have changed their Glory for that which doth not profit. Be aſtoniſhed O ye Heavens at this, and be horribly*

horribly afraid, be ye very desolate, saieth the Lord: For my people have committed two Evils: They have forsaken Me the Fountain of Living Waters [their Covenanted God] and hewed them out Cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no Water. We are afraid that there be Thousands in Scotland has never dropt a Tear for this Sin to this Day. [2dly] Our then overturning a whole Work of Reformation, not yet by far come up to its former pitch and splendor. (3dly.) Our long Tract of Oppression Cruelties and Blood-shed: And surely all will allow, National-Perjury, Oppression, and the Shedding of Innocent Blood, to be Crying-Sins, and pleads for Vengance from Heaven upon a whole Land, without deep Repentance. (4ly.) For our Apostacy Defection and Declinings from the straight Ways of the Lord; Our Wicked, Sinful and Cowardly complying with the Courses and Men of those Times which created Rents and Divisions in the Church, not cured to this Day. And then since the late happy Revolution. FIRST. For our dreadful Ingratitude to GOD and our PRINCE, for so seasonable signal and suppprysing a Deliverance: (2dly.) Our unworthyly Suffering our selves to be led by the Nose, of CARNAL POLICY, which never can, or ever will be able to support us; This is every Year more and more made out to a Witness, and will at last prove but a Nose of Wax, when we come with it before the heat of an Extremity, which in all Appearance is heastning upon us. (3dly.] Our Unfaithfulness, Cowardliness and Timeousness in matters relating to the HONOUR and HOUSE of our GOD. (4ly.) Our quite abandoning a Self-Denyed and Publick-Spirit, casting off all ZEAL for Gods Glory, the Good of Religion and the true Interest of the Nation; sinking our selves in SELF, furiously driven down the stream of WORDLY INTERESTS. without the least regard to the common Concerns of the Kingdom, either spiritual or temporal. [5ly.) Our woeful Barrenness, and Unfruitfulness under the Purity and Plenty of Gospel Ordinances, and our fining away the SPIRIT and PRESENCE of GOD in a great measure from us. (6ly.) The fearful abounding, increassing and overspreading of Prophanity, and all manner of Abominations among us, so that open Blasphemy, Cursing, Swearing, Drukenness, Base Uncleanliness, Sabbath-Breaking, Theeving, Defrauding, Robbery, and all Unrighteousness betwixt Man and Man, rageth and reigneth without Check or Controll, only a few of the poorer Sort now and then offered up as a Victim to atron for all, which temps Men to believe, that Impartial Justice is now by Inferiour Magistrates turned to a meer Sham, and the Execution of good Laws into a meer Mock; So that when those of them against Vice and Prophanity are commendably twice a Year Read out in Churches; Do we not to our Grief observe, some smyling, others ridiculing, and a third sort withdrawing, as not thinking it worth their while to sit and hear a long Paper only read over, and then no more of it: Better make no Laws at

all,

all, then that a good Law once made, which is Sacred, ſhould be ſuffered tobe trampled upon by every *Profane*, *daring*, *bellowing Fellow*, and the Government it ſelf thereby manifeſtly trod upon: This is made out by too many ſad Inſtances, ſo that Men are come to this inſufferable Bravading Boldneſs, in their wicked Cabals to tell us, the Government dare not do otherwayes. We love CLEMENCY, but the Exceſs of it is reckoned by *Divines*, equally ſinful and dangerous to a Common Wealth as *Cruelty*, and to this is owing much of our preſent *Diſaſters* and *Diſorders*. Ah! Is there not a ZEALOUS PHINEAS among us all, who will reſolutly riſe up and Execute Judgment to ſtay the Plague, that is already breaking in upon us like fire. And [7*ly*] To Crown our Miſery in our late Glorious Undertaking, for Advancing the Trade of the Nation, our not having a principal Eye in the firſt place to the *Glory of God*, the Inlargement of his Sons Kingdom, by ſpreading the bleſſed Goſple among the poor periſhing *Indians*; Not making it our buſſineſs to ſend *Able Men* for Government and *Good Chriſtians*, *Wiſe Heads* and *Honeſt Hearts* in that Momentous Expedition, who might have rationally expected GOD's BLESSING and PRESENCE with them; but on the contrair, perſons Nottour for all manner of Wickedneſs, Enemies to every thing that's Good, enough to have brought down the *Curſe of God* upon all about them, Men ſeeking *themſelves*, and the ſatiating of their own *Luſts*, more than the good of either NEW or OLD *CALEDONIA*, whoſe profane and profligat Lives has in all Appearance poſted them on Firſt and Laſt to their *Fatal and ſhameful End*.

For all which, and many moe God-provoking and Land-ruining SINS, the Holy and Righteous Lord is viſibly purſuing us with *Stroak upon Stroak*; and was pleaſed as it were in his diſpleaſure, to cut of in the very Entry of this National Undertaking, his own *Two Servants*, their broken-hearted Paſtors by the way, as he did both *Moſes* and *Aaron*, before they Entered into their Promiſed Canaan (a black Omen of what was to follow upon that wicked Crew) then ſent a *diviſive Spirit* among them, the fearful forerunner of Ruine, and at laſt quite Chruſhed that Noble and Excellent Project, in cutting off the one half of them by Sickneſs and Famine, and Diſperſing the other, like to many deſpiſed and diſpicable Vagabounds; by which all our big, though otherwayes warrantable Hopes of certain and ſpeedy profit and National Gaine, were utterly cut off and Blaſted: And, which is above all to be Lamented, God was likeways provoked to ſtiffle in the very Birth and Cruſh a *moſt Glorious and Chriſtian Deſign* by (we muſt ſay) *a few Lot's* in that *Sodom*, for ſetting up of *Chriſts Standart* in the midſt of the *Devils Camp* of Infidels; And all this for both Their and Our unworthy Sakes, Let none who beareth the Name of Chriſtians ever conſent to, or Countenance ſuch an *Enterprize*, when managed by

ſuch

such like Instruments. or be in the least concerned with such *Corah Dathan* and *Abiram's.* Here the Hand of an *Incensed God* was eminently seen against both them and us, and no wonder; for how could it possibly been expected, that God would ever have Honoured such a *pittiful pack*, such *unclean Spirits*, so *vile sinners* to carry over such a Noble Embassy, as THE GLADE-TIDINGS OF SALVATION, to the poor Perishing *Indians*, when the great and only Lesson they taught them, was to BLASPHEME GOD, DAMN THEMSELVES and CURSE ON ANOTHER, as if the sad Case of these Miserable Creatures, who Worship the Devil, were not *Hopeless* enough already; But our *SCOTS* PAGANS (a thousand times *greater sinners* then they) must needs teach them to Seall their own *Damnation* with their own Consent, and Confirm it out of their own Mouths. Ah! What *Scots-man* is able to Reflect on these things without Tears of Indignation, and self-abhorancy, considering the constant provoking CAUSES of our continued Misery,

We do not here intertain the least unbecoming Thought of our GRACIOUS PRINCE, Considering his present and growing *difficulted Circumstances*, though his and our Implacable and Unreasonable Enemies, a *Jacobite Malignant Party* laboureth to blow the Coal; and emprove every thing of this Nature, on purpose to creat Jealousies and Animosities betwixt his Majesty and his best Friends, notwithstanding they are hitherto *disapointed* of this and all their Hellish Designs, and we hope, for ever shall. God forbid we should lessen our *Affection*, *Respect*, *Loyalty* and *Bounded Duty*, to a KING who, by the good Hand of God upon him, has done so *great things* for us, when Protestant Necks (as well *Episcopal* as *Presbyterian*) were all upon the Block, and a Murdering Popish Sword ready to give the Blow, and when the Alarming Word of TURN or BURN was already sounding in our Ears. We hope likewayes, that his Majesty is sufficiently able to give an Account of his publick Actings at Home and Abroad to both God and Man, and to satisfy even his own Subjects when it shall be thought proper, and the whole World if required. Mean while we pray, that God may still powerfully determine the HEART of our GREAT DELIVERER, our TRUE PROTESTANT KING to fall upon the safest and most necessar Expedients and Measures, consonant with *Divine Policy*, whereby to Mantain both his own Honour, Just Power and Greatness, and the Religion, Liberty, Property, Safety and Well-fare of this his Ancient and now sinking Kingdom: And may God put a *Reprobat Cain's Mark*, upon the Fore-head of every one who would *Advise* him to the contrair: The Lord discover the Person or Persons of what Quality soever, who shall dare at any time, or upon any Account, for to SEPARAT that which God in Mercy has so straitly JOINED TOGETHER, we mean, a GOOD KING from his GOOD SUB-

JECTS, or Laboureth to *misrepresent* or *misinform* either party to the Endangering of our *Sacred* or *Civil* Concerns: WO to the Man, by whom this dangerous Offence cometh; let him be pursued by HEAVEN, Anathematiz'd by CHURCH, Cut off by his PRINCE, Spew'd out by his COUNTRY, Abhorred by all, and let the Murdering Sycopants Infamous Name Rot to Posterity. But what ever might have been the *Reasons* and *second Causes* of this late *Disaster*, and the many other *Grievances* we Labour under, the *wrong steps* and *mismanagments* in the whole Affair (which we will not dip into, though perhaps too true, and ought to be *searched into*, and *prevented* for the future, the Kingdoms Eyes being now opened to see every wrong step threatned) it evidently appears to be the JUST JUDGMENT OF GOD, pursuing a JUDICIALLY and JUSTLY INFATUATED PEOPLE; and it will be found to be so, upon a serious and impartial Reveiw on the whole of our Deportment.

In the SECOND PLACE, That we Enter our selves *de novo* into COVENANT with God, and publickly Renew our former *National* and *Solemn Engadgements*, if not *ipsissimis verbis*, then with what *Alterations* and *Additions*, as shall be found Expedient and Agreeable to our present Circumstances: And this to be IMPOSED upon none against their will, which we hope will be but few, such as are *Avowed Malignants*, *declared Jacobites* and other *Profane Fellows*, not worth our Courting. Sure who ever they be, who are not for *Renewing of National Engadgements*, especially when *once broken*, and in time of *National Judgments*, would seem at least to *Homologate* and owne the *Breach thereof*; And we dare affirm from Scripture Warrand, *Breach of Covenant* and *National Perjury* to be *Scotlands* MOTHER-SIN, and continues to be a CRYING SIN, let men count light of this as they please; and that all our Plagues and Judgments to this Day, oweth their first and cheif Rise from that very hour, that the *Representatives of Scotland* laid the Word, that terrible WORD. *Luke* 19 14. *We will not have this MAN to reign over us*, and when the KING *of Scotland* with his *Rulers*, like the raging Heathen. *Psal.* 2 3. *Took Counsel together against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying. Let us break their Bands asunder, and cast their Cords from us.* The which they afterwards made good, and swore to, by all that was Hellish: And while this dreadfully agravated Sin is not publickly resented, disowned, and the Odium of it taken off us, by as publickly *Renewing* our solemn Engagements to the Lord, as they were publickly *Broken*, we make it still *our own proper Fact and Deed*, and we need never expect, that an affronted God will ever remove the Marks of His heavy Displeasure from us and our Land; Amongst which, the late *Conflagration* was a dreadful Instance, the Lord appearing against us in *Flames of Fire*, when the *Glory of Scotlands Metropolitane* was laid in the Dust and consumed into Ashes, all

mean

means of ſtopping its raging fury proving ineffectual, and (which was obſervable) every helping hand infatuated and ſtupified, declaring it to be a *predeterminat ſtroak from Heaven*, giving that mercyleſs Element a Commiſſion to cut out its Way through a number of ſtately ſtone buildings of 11, 12, and 13 ſtories high, and ſuddenly and unexpectedly to flee from the *Cowgate* up to the Croſs of *Edinburgh* where the COVENANT *in anno* 1682 was publickly BURNT by the Hands of the common Hang-Man, and that in a bravading ſolemnity, the Magiſtrates, appearing in their Robes, outdaring the Almighty to His Face; and where was frequently erected *Bloody Theatres* and *Scaffolds*, whereon multitudes of *Chriſts Worthies* were murdered and bouchered: We can give it no better name, whatever colour of Law they pretended to, like that of *John* 19 7. Notwithſtandidg whereof, the Spirit of God *Acts* 7 52. Expreſſly calls them MURDERERS: And thus theſe wreſtling Cloud of Witneſſes, all cheerfully ſuffered Martyrdom in the late Reigns for their keeping up a Conſtant Teſtimony for the *Truth*, for a Work of Reformation, for that *broken and burnt Covenant*, and in defence of their ſolemn Covenantings with God *&c.* And all of them againſt ABJURED PRELACY, againſt the then Monſtruous SUPREMACY over the Church and Houſe of God, and other Audacious Inſults, and Encroachments made upon the Crown, and Prerogative Royal of our LOD JESUS CHRIST, the only KING and HEAD of Sion.

In the THIRD PLACE, That their be all poſſible Methods and Meaſures condeſcended upon, and thoſe once made *Effectual*, for putting the former good Acts and Laws againſt *VICE* and *PROFANITY* to due, preſent, and *Impartial Execution*, without reſpect of Perſons, yet with prudence and diſcretion Let us but caſt an eye to our Neighbour Nation, and obſerve there what they are doing, in order to Effectuat this great point, and it muſt needs refreſh the Heart of any ſober Chriſtian, to hear what an unexpected length theſe Famous SOCIETIES for *Reformation of Manners, and ſuppreſſing of Immoralities* are come to, and the wonderful ſucceſs God has already given them, being Gentlemen of undanted Reſolution, who don't fear the Faces or Threats of Men, but who ever are Guilty, muſt fall before them, and undergo the laſh of the Law, be what he will, without the leaſt regard to his *Poſt* or *Quality*: They very well knowing, and Conſcienciouſly conſidering, that Laws are made for Hedging in the GREAT ONES, no leſs then the SMAL; and that the GREAT GOD, whoſe Moral Law they Tranſgreſs is no Reſpecter of Perſons. The Lord Bleſs and Reward theſe RENOWNED REFORMERS, they are well worth our Imitation, and it is not below the Beſt and Greateſt of us to ape after them, and to liſt our ſelves in ſuch like *Societies* here: For we have reaſon to believe, that if any thing on Earth keep off the *Judgments of God* from that Nation, this is a Notable mean to do it,

O ſhall they get the ſtart of US (to our ſhame be it ſpoken) This Church being reckoned by all true Proteſtants Abroad, to be one of the *Pureſt*, and *beſt Reformed* Churches on Earth, as indeed it is, that if Men would lay aſide ſuperſtitious Worſhip, empty Forms, prejudice and wickedneſs, they ſhould ſoon come to ſee a Glory ſhining in all its parts, in its equal and comely Proportions, like *Jeruſalem*, a *City that is Builded Compact together*, When we look to the *ſoundneſs* of its Doctrine, the *Purity* of its Worſhip, the *ſtrickneſs* of its Diſcipline, and the *Divine Order* of its Government, if we had but the *Zeal* and *Courage* of our Anceſtours to Exerſe and Manage this Mercy accordingly: Should we then let other places of the World, who are otherwayes drown'd in meer Forms and Shadows, outſtrip us: Ah! How ſhall PRESBYTERIAN *SCOTLAND* be able to Anſwer Chriſts Queſtion to his own profeſſing people the *Jews*. *Math.* 5. 47. WHAT DO YOU MORE THAN OTHERS? When we, from whom great *great things* were expected, come ſo miſerably ſhort of others. O when will the *Spirit of God* give us this Teſtimony, which he gave to his faithful Prophets: *Jerem*: 3 19. *The wicked and obſtinat ſinner ſhall dy in his Iniquity. But Thou haſt delivered thy ſoul*, by not only making Good Laws (of it ſelf alone not worth my Notice and the leaſt and eaſieſt part of that Task I intruſted you with) But likewayes and eſpecially by ſeeing every one of them duely and impartially Execute upon all Tranſgreſſors Civil or Miletary.

Then in the FOTRTH PLACE, (to Compleat our Hapineſs) to ſee by all means poſſible to raiſe the fallen Credit and Honour of our Nation (wherein every good Man will do his outmoſt to Aſiſt you) and bring back its loſt Reputation, by a Vigorous Proſecution of what we have already ſet on foot, or may yet project; for carying on the publick Trade of the Kingdom, as well *Inland* as *Foreign*, and ſpreading the *Goſpel* to the outmoſt ends of the Earth: Surely theirs no good *SCOTS-MAN*, who will not only be content to drain his Coffers, but likewayes ſpend his Blood, and venture his All, to Effectuat this great End, maugre all the Attemps of Envy and Malice it ſelf. And in order to promove an Undertaking of ſo vaſt an Importance, it will be abſolutly neceſſar to Erect, Support and Encourage all ſorts of *Inland Manufactories*, making in the entry ſevere Laws, and theſe duely Execut againſt all ſturdy Beggars, and other Vagrand Vagabonds, Male or Females, a great Nurſery to Profanity and Debauchery, a ſcandal to all good Government, and the ſhame of a Nation, as if we were Patronizers of Idleneſs, Sloth and Villany. Now if theſe, with the other begging poor, and poor weekly Penſioners (which are likewayes very numerous, and ſtill growing upon our hand) were every Man and Woman of them, Boy and Girle, all ſet a working, ſuch as has either Health, Limb or Reaſon, it would ſave an incredible Charge

through

through the Kingdom for their daily ſuſtinance, a heavy and needleſs Burden upon the Subjects, moſt of them not able to bear it: And beſides, they might in a few Years be made Capable, not only to maintain themſelves, and all the other Poor Impotent Creatures who cannot, and are not able to Work; but likewayes beyond Controverſy, they might become vaſtly gainful to the Publick: And by this much longed for and Chriſtian Method, the Univerſal Theeving, Reſeting, Robery, Monſtruous Uncleaneſs, multitudes of young Craving Heathniſh Baſtards (a new fleece of them coming up every Year in City, Town and Country, who muſt likewayes be fed) and many other Villainies might be prevented: Surely if it were no more than that theſe Common Beggars do diſpiſe the Bond of Matrimony, and in a manner Renownceth Baptiſme, allowing of neither Marriages nor Chriſtinings among them, but liveth promiſcuouſly in Fornication, Adultry and Inceſt one with another, This were enough to Terrify us from ſuffering ſuch a Helliſh Brood to Continue but one Year longer in ſuch fearful and known Abuſes.

As to what further Concerns Prohibiting the Exportation of Wool, The Diſcouraging and Prohibiting of Foreign Manufactures upon ſevereſt Penalties, without which, the Diſpoſing of the Poor as above, and the preventing of their Increas cannot be rendred Practicable: And likewayes what Concerns the Advaneing of our Fiſhing Trade, the Unanſwerable Neglect of *Scotſmen*, The laying up of Publick Magazines and Graneries of Corn againſt the Years of Dearth. The ſuffering of no Idle Perſon, deſtitute of a Competent Stock or Patrimony to be without a particular Calling and Employ, to prevent their being an uſeleſs Burden to others, or taking ſinful ſhifts to get their Bread. As alſo, what Courſe is to be taken with ſuch, as ſhall hereafter Brutally Waſte and Squander away their Means, by Drinking, Whoreing, Gaming and the like Impious Extravagances, who deſerve not only to die in miſery, but to be Hang'd up before the Sun as Self-Murderers, to the Terrour of all ſuch Profflugat Debauches. The Ways and Means to prevent the Numerous, Tedious, Litigious, and Expenſive Law Suits, both Scandalous and Ruining to the Leiges, the Rich and the Great ſtill Devouring up the Small and the Poor. The giving all due Encouragement to HUSBANDRY and LANDLABOWRERS, eſpecially in granting them LONG TACKS and LEASES, by which they might be Animated once to fall upon the true Art of Thriving, by Hedging, Ditching and Planting their Ground, wherever it may be proper, and not to Rack, Squeeſe and Oppreſs them, exacting Brick from both Man and Beaſt, where there is no Straw, making Beaſts of Slaves and Slaves of Men, and by giving the Poor Tenent ſtill the other Riſeing-Blow, when ever he begins to get up his Head above the Waters of long Trouble, Toil and Poverty, then it is that all care is taken (by hightening the Rent and other-

 waves)

ways) to keep him down, and Reduce him to his former Drudgery and Misery: Here is neither Justice, Mercy nor Policy, but Cruelty, wholly inconsistant with Christianity. A Righteous Man is Merciful to his Beast, much more to his own Reasonable Fellow-Creature, who with the sweat of his Browes groaneth out his strength for his Masters standing, a Master that perhaps pisseth his All against the Wall, or throweth it vilely away upon his Whores, or spendeth it and his time upon Gaming and Prodigality. Or sometime a Wretched Miser, hateful to both God and Man, who hoordeth it all up, and makes neither the Good nor the Bad the better of it. The suppressing of MONOPOLIES, there being ordinarly a *Curse* attending it. The Regulating of CORPORATIONS, and the Encourageing of all ARTISTS to Yern their Bread among us, and to be serviceable to their Country: And if there be any Superiority Priviledge or Freedom allowed to one more than another, *Detur DIGNIORI*, let it be given to the *Cunning Artificer*, to the *Emulous Tradesman* (though otherwayes *Poor* and *Mean*,) who maketh it his Business to *Excel* his Neighbour: This would provoke TRADSMEN to send their SONS Abroad in order to return and become a Credit to their Country: Is it not a pitty, beside the sin of it, and National Loss to Discourage, or offer to bear down that MAN, who in any measure Resembleth a *BEZALEEL* or *AHOLIAB*, whom God (tho not for such a Glorious End) hath filled with *Wisdom*, *Understanding* and *Knowledge*, in all manner of Workmanship relating to his Trade. The discharging of all PENNY WEDDINGS, an Incitment and Inlet to much *Debauchery*, *Lewdness* and *base Communication*; as also, a most impertinent Tax upon the Leiges, who in many Cases either dare not, or has not the Confidence to deny that Begging and Beggarly Complement to their Supperiours, or those upon whom they have any Dependance. The Regulating of WEARING APPARREL in *both Sexes*, and in *every Station*, That (besides its Christian Decency) when a PERSON OF QUALITY, and Men of *Lower Rank*, when a LADY and a *Common Hussy* appears in our Streets, we may know *which* is *which*, and may be able to distinguish the one from the other. The Erecting of a National Council for Trade, and particular Courts in Town and Country for Reformation of Manners, and the Effectual suppressing of all sorts of Immoralities; And this Court to have nothing else under their Cognisance, to Consist of Brisk and Conscientious Men, who are not throng'd with their own particular Affairs, and has no other Croud of Business to Divert them from Applying themselves Closly and Dayly to this Great Work, and for which, to have a certain Sellary settled Yearly upon them, who are to be Men of known Integrity, and free of all Immoralities themselves, from whom there must be no Appeal, no Suspensions or Advocations allowed; and these Cloathed with such Power, and marks of Respect, as

that

that they may be Overawed and Hectored by none, from doing Impartial Justic unto all. And Finally, what Relates to any thing elſe, whereby this *Poor Impoverished* and *Sinful Nation* may be *Enriched* and *Reformed*, moſt of theſe we ſay not be ing our proper Province to Meddle in, we therefore leave them to Heads that c a handle them better; The great deſign of this Paper being, (without Offence) to ſtrike at ſuch Grievances which are more directly *Sinful* and *Scandalous*, and what Concerns our *Spirituals*. Mean while, all of us, have raaſon to bemoan with the Pſalmiſt. *Pſalm* 44. 13. 14. *Thou makeſt us a Reproach to our Neighbours, a Scorne and a Deriſion to them that are round about. Thou makeſt us a By-word among the Heathen, a ſhaking of the Head among the People.* But Ah! We muſt ſtop here, not daring for our Souls to join in with the words following. *ver.* 17. 18. *All this is come upon us, yet have we not Forgotten Thee, neither have we dealt falſely in thy Covenant, our heart is not turned Back, neither have our ſteps declined from thy Way.* However it is in the Power of this GREAT COURT, by the Bleſſing of God, to make us once more favory in the Eyes of both God and Man: We know a WISE Parliament CAN, and doubt not but a RIGHTEOUS Parliament WILL, for their own and the Kingdoms Intereſt, Safety and Security, fall upon ſpeedy and effectual Meaſures, to make Themſelves and Us a *Happy People*: And if you Faithfully Conſcientiouſly and Reſolutly ſet about and puſh forewaard this Great Work, we are very hopeful, *The Lord will Return unto us, Repent, and leave a Bleſſing behind Him*: Nay who knoweth, but a Wonder-Working God may yet Raiſe up out of the Ruines of our late Glorious Undertaking another COLONY (if not the ſame) better purged, and upon more ſolide Foundations then formerly; Eſpecially, if in Expeditions of that Nature, we make it our Care to ſend a few Leading Men Endued with a *Principal* of CONSCIENCE and TRUE HONOUR, together with a Head-Governour, which will be abſolutely neceſſar, Conſidering our conſtant TREACHERY among our ſelves: And this Governour to be a Bold, Wiſe, *Prudent* Man, a ſevere Juſticiar, of Good Conduct, and undouted Integrity; otherwayes he may ſoon prove like SEVEN DEVILS worſe then the Former.

Some unthinking Perſons may perhaps Alledge, that this is not a Seaſonable Paper, and Ill Tim'd: But ſuffer us, with deep ſubmiſſion, to Greater and Wiſer Heads to tell ſuch, That we humbly preſume this to be moſt Seaſonable, every way Seaſonable, nay Critically Seaſonable, and well Tim'd, Now or Never, upon the back of ſuch a Fatal Blow, ſuch a Fearful Stroak, ſuch a Tremenduous *Providence*, the very Thoughts and Report whereof, may make every *Scots* Heart for to tremble, their Ears to Tingle, and ſink us down Confounded and Speachleſs with *Job* and his Freinds, under its ponderous Weight; And that it is our Indiſpenſible Duty to offer you our naked though

troubled Thoughts in this matter, nondo we in the leaſt doubt, but that all of you will reckon it your preſent Work and Duty, to have a due Regard thereto, we being all alike deeply Concerned both as Men and as Chriſtians: For when is it that a People is ſpecially called to make a full and free Confeſſion, to take with their Guilt, mourn for Sin, Renew their Engagements, and Turn to the Lord? If not then, when the JUDGMENTS of GOD are upon a Land, and fleeing through all the Corners thereof; nay following and purſuing us to the outmoſt Parts of the Earth. And we muſt ſay, that if our *Confeſſion* and *Repentance* be of the right ſtamp, wrought by the *Spirit of God*, it will be deeply Humbling. The true *Confeſſor* will be content to ly in the Duſt, and ſuffer every Body as it were, to Trample upon him. The right Confeſſor makes no Appologies for his ſin, but rather skrews it up to higheſt Agravations, and then deſcends to the loweſt and ſmaleſt Degrees of his SIN, and the minuteſt particulars and ſteps of his GUILT; The Man has got a hole or prick in his *Conſcience* where no ſin remains lurking, but all muſt run out in Confeſſion before the Lord; for he very well knows, that any ſin, the leaſt ſin continued in, or remaining unrepented of, has Wrath ſtill Arm'd againſt the ſinner. And we further ſay, that GOD has *Scotland* now upon the Rack, and do believe, that he will never take it off, till we come to this Humble Confeſſion: For how can it be ſuppoſed, that He who is both Gracious and Omnipotent did ever begin a Work either of *Mercy* or of *Judgement*, and then ſtopt in the midſt of it, as if He were neither Willing to *Reform*, nor Powerful enough to *Deſtroy*? What we here ſay, we think is Warranted from Scripture, and nothing but what we hear dayly Proclaimed from Pulpits, the Chair of Verity by our Teachers, Chriſts ſent Servants and Faithful Ambaſſadours, whom both You and We ought to Credit, and whoſe words ſhould have a deeper Impreſſion upon our Spirits, then as yet is to be ſeen. Ah if we could poſſibly be wrought up and brought to ſuch a Confeſſion, God would do yet Great things for Us. What? Wou'd he let us alwayes be mocked and hiſſ'd at by the Nations about Us? Wou'd he ſuffer COVENANTED *SCOTLAND* ſtill to be Deſpiſed through all Europe? No certainly he would not, he would do ſomething for his own Great Name: Nay though the *Deſtroying Angel* be hovering above our Heads, ready to ſtrik us down, yet upon the back of our Humble Confeſſion, we might argoue with *Manoah* to his Wife *Judg.* 13. 23. *The Lord has received a Burnt Offering at our hand, and therefore He will not Kill us*; eſpecially if this our Confeſſion and Repentance bring forth a *Samſon* of ſtrong Reſolutions and Engagements to Duty for the Future. He is yet Begetting Children among us (though we muſt ſay but few) and ſhall we think that he will ſuffer his Infant Babes in Chriſt to hang upon the Breaſts and ſtarve? God has a WRESTLING REMNANT in *Scotland*

land, and therefore we are very hopeful he will not quite depart from us, nor leave us altogether, so long as these his *Princely Jacobs* are mercifully Continued with us: But so soon as this principal part of Gods Earthly Plenishing and Houshold Furniture, his own Jewels, are Removed and taken away, then we lay our Account, that the *Great Master* of the House will Flit and be gone for good and all, then WO WO unto us, when he once departs from us. O how then doth it Concern one and all of us, to prize this Mercy, that we have a Praying Party in the Land, of Ministers and People, which both You and We perhaps are more Obliged unto, than can in modesty be expreſt, or we probably believe: If we call them in some Respects the Pillars of *Scotland*, we should not offend. These are they who keep us from *present Ruine*, and what would have become of us longer now, if there were not such a *Remnant* among us, standing betwixt the Portch and the Alter? *Isai.* 1. 9. *Except the Lord of Hoſt had left unto us a very small Remnant we should have been as* Sodom, *and like unto* Gomorrah. However let none here Encourage themselves, so as to go on in sin, when the Lord is, as it were, saying to these, as he said unto *Moses*. *Ton my Wrestling Worthies, for your Conscientious Discharge of your Duty, you shall get your own Souls for a Prey, you shall be taken into my special Care and Protection: But* LET ME ALONE, *that my Wrath may wax hot against such stiff-necked Rebels, and that I may Consume them.* Alace! We know not how soon God may be provoked to pass the Word, (if not already gone out of his Mouth.) Jerem. 15, 1. *Though Moses and Samuel stood before Me, yet my Mind could not be toward this People*; *Cast them out of my sight, and let them go forth to Destruction.* And this is the more Galling unto us, when we Consider, that we needed not have brought our selves to this miserable pass, this straitning Pinch, this dangerous Risque, but on the Contrair, all these Judgments might have been happily prevented, if we had but fairly begun our WORK OF REFORMATION where we left it off, in *Anno* 1661. when PRELACY broke in in upon us like a Deluge, the which we might easily have done in the Entry of our late Revolution, that Great Year of *SCOTLANDS* JUBILE, when we were Delivered from *Popery*, *Prelacy*, *Arbitary Government*, *Tyrrany* and *Slavery*: Then was the Golden Opportunity, then was the Glorious Season for Re-entring into Covenant with God, and again giving our selves Solemnly away to the Lord, God as it were wating on, upon both *Church* and *State*, to see what they would then do for Him, and remarkably disposing all things for that Effect, and that for the first few Months thereafter, that Invaluable, and (we are affraid) Irrecoverable nick of time, we shamefully lost; for which (and no wonder) God as Remarkably was observed gradually to *Leave us*, to *Desert us*, to *Blast us*, and every way to *Plague us*, Year after Year ever since, Our Deliverance then was

ſo Unexpected and Surprizeing, that we were as theſe poor Captives: *Pſal.* 126. 1. *like Men that Dream'd*; But Ah! No ſooner we Awoke from that Sleep, but immediatly we fell into another, a Thouſand times Worſe and more Dangerous, and in this woful Nap of SECURITY, we have been Loytering and Snorting now for Ten or Twelve Years together, that its like to turn into a *Mortal Letharge* and prove the ſleep unto Death, if the Lord prevent it not. Our Famous Predeceſſors Renewed their Covenants with God again and again in fewer Years ſpace; Notwithſtanding the Nation had been formerly in Covenant with Him: And what damnage were in it to either Church or State, but rather much Good to both, though it ſhonld be Renewed once every ſeven Years, if it were no more than to put us in a *National Solemn Frame* for Serving our God. If it be Objected, that this were to Involve many in *Perjury*, who probably afterwards would not ſtand to it: Let ſuch Conſider, how we are Perjuring one another Ten or Twelve times a Year, and that for meer Temporal Triffles, and Compare the one with the other. But above all, (to puſh us on and quicken us to this Great and Neceſſar Work) It is more than probable, and we do verily believe, that the POURING OUT OF THE SPIRIT, the Greateſt Bleſſing we now want and long for, will be Suſpended and kept Back, till ſomething of this Nature be deſireably ſet on foot. Herein Divine Wiſdom would ſhine, this were true State Policy, by which, Enemies to both God and our King, which are ſtill Increaſing, would become dayly ſmaller and ſmaller, and leſs to be Regarded.

To ſhut up this unpleaſant and forced Petition, let us but Conſider, what we once were, when *Reformation* was in its bright Zenith, in its Meridian Splendor, then the Glory of our Land; and what we now are, we may rationally Conclude, that if we do not Recover our former ZEAL, and turn Men of PUBLICK SPIRITS, we need never dream of Eaſe or Reſt from Trouble, but may ſay with the Angel in *Rev.* 9. *One Woe is paſt, and behold! Another cometh.* We grant, that if we were not Profeſſors of the true Reformed Religion, Great Pretenders and what not? The Soveraign Lord of the World might ſuffer us to Floriſh like other Nations, and go on and Proſper, even in our Wickedneſs: But WE! His own Iſrael, a People Called by his Name, once and again in Covenant with Him. WE to play the Fool and Act the Mad-man, thus to Forſake our COVENANTED GOD, our own Mercy, this is altogether Intollerable and highly Criminal; ſo that a Jealous God ſeems fixedly Reſolved either to REFORME us, or utterly to DESTROY us: This is clearly written upon the Print of every Providence we meet with, eſpecially when Compared together. Have we not already taſted of the Devouring SWORD? The Beſt and Braveſt of *Scots-men* being

being Cut off in the late Wars for our Sins; And likewayes ſmairted by the ſharpe Arrow of FAMINE, Dearth and Pinching Want, the Poor as it were ſuffering for the Rich: Moreover it is not long ſince we were payning away for ſome Months together by a Great Mortality and Raging Sickneſs, in which there was found ſomething ſingular and Remarkable, that the *Firſt Born* were then moſtly ſtruck at, Parents and Heads of Families Cut off, more than Children and Servants, and whereas the above *Plagues* (which is worth our Obſervation) has all along Reached the Common and Meaner ſort of People: Therefore both Miniſters and others are very Apprehenſive, (the Lord prevent it by timeous and ſpeedy Repentance) That, if we be not otherwayes INVOLV'D IN BLOOD, the next Plague in all Apperance is like to Terminat our Ruine by a Raging PESTILENCE, the Immediate Hand of God, which may ſweep off the *Greateſt* and *Fatteſt* of the Flock, ſince GREAT MEN, we ſuppoſe, will Acknowledge themſelves to be GREAT SINNERS, no leſs then others: And its more than probable, that this laſt ſtroak will light mainly upon the *Outer Court, The Openly Profane, the Dead Moraliſt, the Louk-warm Profeſſor, the Painted Hypocreet, the Deteſtable Galio's*, and the like, when neither their CARNAL POLICY will be able to protect them, nor their *Riches* Bribe or ſtop the Hand of Juſtice; nor yet their *Grandour* ſhall avail to Guaird them from *Omnipotence.*

Among the many black *Marks*, and formidable Preſages of a People and Nation Deſtinat for Ruine (whatever God in His Soveraignity may do with us) our preſent DIVISIONS among our ſelves, ſeems to be one of the moſt Fatal and Remarkable, and was found among the certaine Fore-Runners of the Deſtruction of *Jeruſalem*. We are now ſo miſerably ſplit by this late Upſtarr, and Wicked Diſtinction of COURT and COUNTRY, which has proven ſo Infectious, and taken ſuch univerſal Footing, that even the Beſt of Men, no leſs then the Worſt, are together by the Ears, every Man againſt his Fellow, and many of us ſcarce knowing Wherefore, or for What: The Lord ſave us from *Breaking into peeces one upon another.* But what better can be expected of us? For to this day we have never been Conſcienciouſly Concerned, to ſeparate the *Precious* from the *Vile*, the *Good* from the *Bad*, the *Treacherous* from the *Faithful* &c. Eſpecially in a time, when the Religion, the preſent Government of Church and State, and the publick Safety of the Kingdom, is ſo viſibly ſtruck at by Enemies on all hands; therefore no wonder, God has ſent a new and ſtrange Spirit of Diſſention among us, about our meer Temporals, our National and Juſtly Blaſted Undertakings. Ah! Our SINS ſeems to be provoking God to make us feel the weight of that Wrath-like Scripture. *Lam.* 4. 16. *The Anger of the Lord hath DIVIDED them, and he will no more Regard them.*

We hope theirs nothing here offered in this our ſerious and humble ADDRESS (however Worded or Expreſt) that can poſſibly give any juſt Offence to either *Great* or *Small* (it being a thing ſo Harmleſs and Innocent of its own Nature) except a few perhaps of either party, who do ſtartle at every thing, at any thing, which has the leaſt tendency toward the *Curbing of Vice, Villany, Profanity and Treachery*, the Advanceing of a happily begun Reformation, and the promoting of Truth, Piety, Serious Religion, and true ZEAL for GOD, KING and COUNTRY. However we look for better Intertainment from the Great and Supream Judicature of the Nation; And do believe and hope, that what Accidental Faults (nowayes deſign'd) the penetrating Eye of Your Profound Wiſdom may quickly eſpy in this ſmall ſhedule, Your GREATNES will Overlook, Your CLEMENCY will Cover: And ſince there have been *Papers* and *Pamphlets*, frequently expoſed to publick View, about the Secular Concerns of a Poor Sinking Kingdom (ſome of them probably not ſo well mean'd as we could wiſh, but rather wickedly deſign'd and of ill Conſequenſe) we beg for the Lords Sake You would ſuffer us to throw in our *Innocent Myte* about our Sacred Concerns, to the end that God may Bleſs, Proſper and Succeed all other Rational, Laudable and Lawful Projects, which may any way tend and contribute to recover us from theſe *Miſeries*, under which we now Groan. Doth not the Wiſe *Solomon, Eccleſ.* 7 14. Bid us. *In the Days of Adverſity* CONSIDER, to Conſider the juſt Hand of God in it, be ſenſible of it, and duely afflicted with it, conſider alſo, why God ſends it, for what Sins, and with what Deſign; In ſhort, to Conſider and lay to Heart the true Cauſes of our Miſery, and how to Recover our ſelves out of Miſery, this being a proper Seaſon for ſerious Conſideration, and not continually thus to ly ſtill, Exclaiming and Crying out againſt One Another. We know there be a *Graceleſs Set of Men* in this Baſe, Degenerat and Baſtardly Age, by whom any thing wherein Religion and Reformation is concened, is preſently branded with the Odious Names of *Canting*, *Puritaniſme* and the like; As alſo on the other hand, a Party equally dangerous to the Advances of Reformation, though Profeſſors of the true Reformed Proteſtant Religion; nay many of them truly Pious, who make it their Buſſineſs (we are affraid, without Gods Call or Scripture Warrand) to be ſtill poring into the falſe perſpective of CARNAL POLICY, through which they pretend to ſee and diſcover things at a prodigious and incredible Diſtance, as if the Secrets of Heaven about future Events were infallibly communicat to them, and none but them; And therefore whatever is not found agreeable to that Conſcience-Cheeting Teloſcop, be it otherways never ſo neceſſar, is *prima Inſtantia* by them cryed down as UNSEASONABLE, *Impertinent*, *Diviſive* and what not? And who knoweth, but by ſuch, even this may meet with the ſame Fate? And conſequently be thrown over their

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Bar, till a more *Convenient Season*, and then again, till another yet more *Convenient Season*, and so on, till the last Season be past, lost and gone. However we think, that no tender and unbyassed Soul (of whom we hope their are not a few in this High COURT) will Censure and Discourage a Paper of so great Weight and Importance to the whole Nation every way as this is; Which if Listned unto, and seriously Considered by you, there may be yet *Hope in Israel concerning us*: But if otherways, and You altogether hold your Pace at such a Time as this; We must, and, by Grace, will Submit to this superadded Punishment of our Iniquities, resolving to trouble you no more: And who knoweth, but HE Who is Wonderful in Counsel, and Excellent in Working, the Mighty Lord, and our Gracious though Offended God, will yet pitty *Distressed Scotland*, and bring Enlargement and Deliverance to Her in a Way we know not. Mean while, God forbid, *Ill-Minding Men* be tempted to go to the Witch at *Endor*, and raise the Devil; We mean, to fall upon Desperate Measures to satisfy their own uneasy and giddy Humours, as some unhappy Persons void of Grace, Wit and Gratitude are already Whispering, those who are madly Driveing on their meer Temporals, as it were over the Belly of Providence, Acted by a Spirit of Revenge, crying out with Poor Deserted *Saul*. 1. *Sam*. 28. 15. *We are sore distressed, for the Philistians make War against us, and God is departed from us, and Answereth us no more, neither by Prophets nor by Dreams &c.* Let us look to it while there is Hope. We are Confident you will not Cast at Great and Solide Truths, though not Garnished over with a Flourishing Style, which is none of our Fault, who do as we can, but unaccountably Theirs, who pretend to do it better, and yet will not give their Helping-Hand, which if Men had the Spirit and Courage to do, we should be for ever Silent, having no pleasure either to Trouble You, or Expose our Selves: For we know their be Multitudes in this Polite Age, who have such Nauseating, Censuring and Prejuded Stomachs, whose Religion and Wit swim's only upon the fleeting Surface of their Airy Brain and Pedantick Nodles, who have got all by Head, and nothing by Heart, That nothing can Savour or Relish with them, but what comes forth in a Romantick Strain, vapouring with the empty Sound of jingling Words, the Gaudy Dress of a Quent-Diction, honyed all over with Smoothness and Neatness of Expression superstitiously Connected; and be sure, ay the more General, the better, only to Tickle the Fancy, but nowayes to Touch the Heart, or Awaken the Conscience, Gospel Simplicity being now reckoned Fanatical Folly, and Close Application with *Nathan* unto *David*, 2. *Sam*. 12. 7. *saying Thou art the Man, is become a mad Heresy, and the height of Imprudence.* But to be plain with all Men, we dare Aver, That though these necessar Duties should be waved even by PROFESSORS (a shame and disgrace to their Predecessors) and Redicul'd by the PROFANE; Yet one day or other, and in all Appearance, ere

long, The most Obdured, Secure and Obstinate among us, shall be forced to Acknowledge, that the Remedy here Humbly and Homely Offered, was the Best, Safest, Surest and Speediest Course we could possibly have taken to Extricat our selves out of our past and present straits: Sure since the GREAT GOD alloweth you and us, who are but Dust and Ashes not only to Plead, but likewayes to be Importunat with Him. *Gen.* 18. from *ver* 18. to the end. *Isai.* 43. 26. *Mat.* 15. 22. 25. 27. For the Lords Sake therefore, for your own Sakes, for the poor Lands Sake, suffer us to Plead with you; and take it not ill, that we have been necessitat (Considering how matters are going, and like to go) to be free and plain with you; and upon our Knees let us Beg you for CHRISTS SAKE, to step in speedily and stand in the Gap, and do what you can to Prevent and Stop what further Judgments may yet be Impending and Threatned, by timeously and effectually Redressing the PUBLICK GRIEVANCES of the Nation, which are many, Growing and Groaning, both as to its Sacred and Civil Concerns; Discouraging and Bearing down all *Base*, *Mean*, *Privat*, *Pitiful*, *Selfish* and *Mercenary Spirits*, the Intollerable Plague and Reigning Evil of the Time, the Root Spring and Causers of these our Grievances, and Creators of Innumerable Mischiefs to both *Church* and *State*: As also, by suppressing and laying aside all *Factious Humours*, and hissing out with disdaine the Diabolical Name of PARTIES, *Petty Differences*, *Privat Picks and Jealousies*, such as the now stated Destinction of COURT and COUNTRY, and the like. We must speak it to your just Praise in this present Session. *Gal.* 5. 7. You have Run well, and who doth hinder you? Nay what can hinder you from GOING ON? When his MAJESTY has put as it were a Blank in your Hands to fill up at Pleasure? That is, to do every thing that may make us HAPPY. And when you are Encouraged hereunto by a COMMISSIONER (that Illustrious *Pear* who Represents His MAJESTIES PERSON among you, who Indefatigably, maketh it his Business to Answer his Great *Motto* (*FORWARD.*) The Eyes of all *SCOTLAND* are fixed upon you as their REPRESENTATIVES, looking and longing for Great Things to be done by you, in order to the Securing of our RELGION, and the Government of Church and State, the Support of our PRINCE, the Liberty of the Subjects, and the Well of their Native Country: For Gods Sake stand to it as One Man, and stand it out Resolutly against all His and Your Enemies, SIN, SATAN and WICKED INSTRUMENTS: For though the outwearied Patience of God, may yet spare us for a while, and waird off the Fatal Blow for a Season, yet; we think, we may say, and we speak it with Trembling, *As the Lord lives, and as your Souls liveth*: there seems to be nothing betwixt us and Final Ruine, but the slender Threed of our DEAR PRINCE his Irrepairable Life, Therefore up and be doing Something to Purpose, and what your Hand findeth to do, do it with all your Might, for our speedy Relief and Recovery, so as the *Blessing* of a whole Kingdom ready to Perish may come upon you, and as you would expect Peace in a DYING HOUR, when every one of you would give a Thousand Worlds, for to meet with that Joyful Wellcome. *Mat.* 25. 21. *Well done, thou Good and Faithful Servant, Enter thou into the Joy of Thy Lord.* You Act for GOD, and in His steed, as his *Deputs*, and to whom your most all shortly give an Account, particularly as to your *Parliamentary Managements*, and more especially, as to your Candide Designs, Votings and Actings, without or within Doors about CHRISTS INTERESTS, his Church and Her Concerns: The beleiving Thoughts of this Great Truth, was an Argument of Weight with *Paul*, to make him Single and Faithful, and likewayes to Press it upon others. 2. *Cor.* 5. 10. *For we must all appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ; and Therefore knowing the Terrours of the Lord in that Day, we perswade Men.* NOW that same GOD give Courage and Conduct, Unity and Harmony, Peace and Truth, Plenty and Prosperity; A principle of true ZEAL for his Glory, Fidelity to our PRINCE, Sympathy with our COUNTRY, and Common HONESTY among our selves. AMEN

Quiquid Agas, Prudenter Age, & Respice FINEM.

FINIS.